UNEMPLOYMEN T

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649203796

Unemployment by A. C. Pigou

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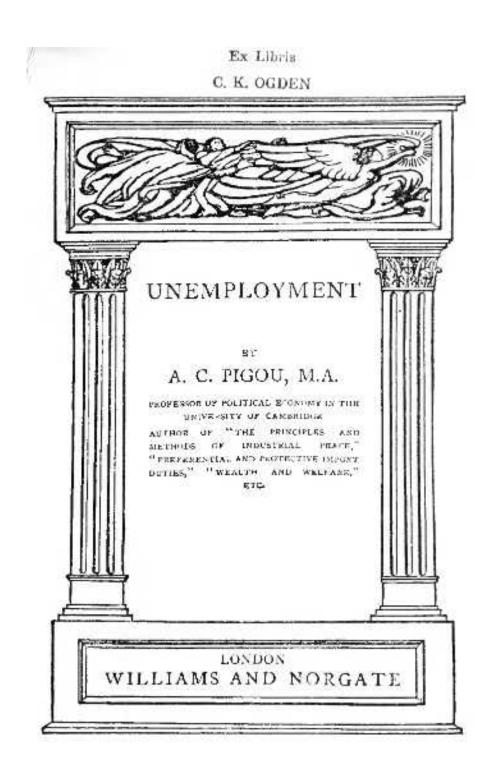
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First printed . . . December 1918 Reprinted . . Fibruary 1924

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN



PREFACE

I AM indebted to Messrs. Macmillan for permission to make use in this volume of a few passages from my books Wealth and Welfare and The Principles and Methods of Industrial Peace published by them. These passages appear within inverted commas, and page references to their position in the books from which they are taken are given in the notes. I have also to thank Mr. Terence Hickman for valuable help in the revision of the manuscript and for making the index; and Mr. Philip Baker for extensive criticisms and suggestions, by the adoption of which the book has, I think, been very much improved.

A. C. PIGOU.

King's College, Cambridge, November 1918.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

It is thought by many that the attitude of economists in the face of obvious social evils is unduly contemplative; that conditions, which involve the misery of untold thousands and the withering of incalculable human promise, are for them no more than the theme for ingenious disquisitions, and the excuse for a number of scarcely comprehensible formulæ. Assuredly this is a mistaken view. The compelling motive that leads men to economic study is seldom a mere academic or scientific interest in the movements of the great wheel of wealth. It is rather the sense that, in the world of business and of labour, justice stands with biassed scales: that men, women and children stagger often into an abyss that might be fenced and guarded; that the lives of many are darker than they need be; that the wealth, on which western nations pride themselves,

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